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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,911	03/05/2002	Hugo Jean Marie Demeyere	8449M	6590

27752 7590 07/22/2005

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EXAMINER	
HARDEE, JOHN R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1751	

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/090,911	DEMEYERE ET AL.
	Examiner John R. Hardee	Art Unit 1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM  
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 24 and 30-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 24 and 30-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07052005.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. Applicant has submitted approximately **80** references for the examiner's consideration in the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 5, 2005. Of these, numerous references, such as EP 369,500, EP 855,021 and CA 1,321,743, do not appear particularly pertinent to the instant claims. It is unclear why these were cited because they do not appear to be "material to patentability" of the claimed invention (37 CFR 1.56).

MPEP 2004, particularly paragraph (13), sets forth guidelines to aid applicants in their duty of disclosure. In this section it is stated:

"It is desirable to avoid submission of long lists of documents if it can be avoided. Eliminate clearly irrelevant or marginally pertinent cumulative information. If a long list is submitted, highlight those documents, which have been specifically brought to the applicant's attention and/or are known to be of most significance. See *Penn Yan Boats, Inc., v. Sea Lark Boats, Inc.*, 359 F. Supp. 948, 175 USPQ 260 (S.D. Fla. 1972), aff'd, 479 2d 1388, 178 USPQ 577 (5th Cir. 1973), cert. denied 414 U.S. 874 (1974)."

The examiner requests that applicant provide a list of the 3-5 most pertinent references and their relevance to the presently claimed invention.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 24 and 30-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/57259. The reference discloses fabric care compositions comprising a modified cellulase. Surfactant is typically present at a most preferable range of 1% to 30% by weight (p. 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> para). Cationic softeners are preferred, and include coconut dimethyl hydroxyethyl ammonium chloride, which is disclosed as especially preferred (p 20, bottom). Typical softening components include distearoyloxyethyl dimethyl ammonium chloride (p. 21, 12)). Total cationic content is preferably about 1-8% (p. 23, 2<sup>nd</sup> para.) Addition of silicone antifoaming agents, perfume and HCl in amounts which meet the limitations of applicant's elected composition are exemplified. Note, in particular Example 15 on p. 78, which discloses a DEQA rinse added fabric softener in combination with a suds suppressor. It is well known in the surfactant art that substantial amounts of monoester are present in commercially available DEQA fabric softening compositions, so applicant's recitation of the addition of a surfactant scavenger does not add patentable weight. The presence of the monoester meets the limitation of about 1:1 to 1.6:1 fatty acid:amine. Note the teaching at the 3<sup>rd</sup> full paragraph on p. 16 that the compositions may be used for manual treatment of fabrics and as softening treatments after laundering. The examiner takes the position that this passage may be fairly construed as teaching the use of the disclosed compositions for softening by hand after laundering. In any event, applicant's method steps are drawn only to contacting fabric with the recited compositions, and contact is clearly disclosed in the reference. This reference differs from the claimed subject matter in that it does

not disclose a composition which reads on applicant's elected composition with sufficient specificity to constitute anticipation.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to make such a composition and to use it for hand treatment of fabric after laundering, because this reference teaches that all of the ingredients recited by applicants are suitable for inclusion in a softening composition, that the compositions may be used for manual treatment, and that the compositions may be used for post-laundering treatment. The person of ordinary skill in the surfactant art would expect the recited compositions to have properties similar to those compositions which are exemplified, absent a showing to the contrary.

In the case where the claimed ranges overlap or lie inside ranges disclosed by the prior art, a *prima facie* case of obviousness exists. *In re Wertheim*, 541 F.2d 257, 191 USPQ 90 (CCPA 1976); *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (Fed Cir. 1990). Applicant's recitation of 90% suds reduction is drawn to determination of the suds-reducing-effective amount of a disclosed suds reducer, and amounts to routine optimization.

**4. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner, Dr. John R. Hardee, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 until 4:30. In the event that the examiner is not available, his supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta, may be reached at (571) 272-1316.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John R. Hardee  
Primary Examiner  
July 14, 2005